



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2004

DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD MAKES SURPRISE CHRISTMAS VISIT TO V CORPS-LED TASK FORCE DANGER

By Spc. Joe Alger

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq —Soldiers here were treated to an early Christmas surprise when U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld stopped in for a visit on Christmas eve, December 24.



SPC DAVID DYER

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addresses Soldiers of Task Force Danger, led by V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, during a surprise visit to the troops at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq December 24.

During his remarks to Soldiers of Task Force Danger, led by V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, Rumsfeld said the main reason for his visit was to look troops in the eye, shake their hands, and tell them how much America appreciates what they do.

Rumsfeld also stressed the importance of upcoming Iraqi elections and what the Soldiers should concentrate on accomplishing.

"The task you have is not to create a country, but to create an environment so that (the Iraqis) can do it on their own," Rumsfeld said.

Following his remarks, Rumsfeld answered Soldiers' questions and posed for for photos.

